

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE SOUTH WIGSTON RESIDENTS' FORUM HELD AT ST. THOMAS CHURCH HALL, BLABY ROAD, SOUTH WIGSTON, ON 9 FEBRUARY 2010

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Mrs S B Morris – Chairman

Councillors G A Boulter, J W Boyce and Mrs J M Gore.

Officers in Attendance: J Cocker, G Walton and G Waterfield (Oadby and Wigston Borough Council),

Residents in attendance: A Kenney, V Ward, D Milligan-Bott, D Walton, J Sealey, L Wills, P Kalogerou, B Everington, B Diamond, G Semple, M Mistry, M Thakrar, A Castledine, P Goodger, B and C Farmer, R Frost, R Pearce, R Elliott, R Elliott, D and J Palmer, J and M Pinnock and L Marriott.

Apologies for Absence were received from J Tipper.

Minute Ref.	Narrative	Officer Responsible
21.	<p><u>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT</u></p> <p>In connection with the single item on the agenda, the Chairman read aloud the contents of an email received from the County Council in which it was explained that representatives from that authority would not now be attending the meeting to make a presentation regarding their Budget and financial planning. Reference had been made to differing presentations made to the first of this series of extraordinary meetings (the Wigston Residents' Forum) and to the tenor of that meeting. In the light of this, the County Council felt that other channels were more appropriate for political debate.</p>	
22.	<p><u>OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL BUDGET 2010/2011</u></p> <p>Mr D Walton gave a presentation on Oadby and Wigston Borough Council's budget plans for the 2010/2011 financial year and gave the background as to how the funds to finance the Council's services were provided and collected and on the constraints placed on the Council in providing these services in the present economic climate.</p> <p>Those present at the meeting were given the opportunity to question Mr Walton on his presentation.</p>	

<p>23.</p>	<p><u>EFFECT OF ROADWORKS ON SOUTH WIGSTON SHOPS</u></p> <p>In view of the effect of the highway works being carried out at the St Thomas Road and Countesthorpe Road junctions with Blaby Road on the businesses located in the Blaby Road area of South Wigston, the Chairman allowed the meeting to discuss measures that were available to help alleviate the problems being experienced.</p> <p>Mr J Cocker, the Council's Economic Development Officer, had been invited to the meeting for the discussion on this matter.</p> <p>The meeting heard that many businesses had seen a significant fall off of trade since these highways works had commenced. Mr Cocker spoke to the meeting on measures that he proposed to put in place to improve matters.</p> <p>The meeting noted that Mr Cocker intended to meet with representatives of the County Council's Highways Section and both lots of contractors employed in the highway works and involved with the South Leicestershire College construction project to resolve a number of issues.</p> <p>The meeting noted that there was a need for better signage of the works. Signage was needed that gave a positive angle to the issue and that didn't put across the message that South Wigston should be avoided. In addition, access to the car parks needed to be better indicated.</p> <p>It was felt that coverage of the various works being undertaken in South Wigston had focused on the negative effects and Mr Cocker undertook to try to put across a more positive angle in the media.</p>	
	<p>The Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.</p>	